

MINUTES
SELECTMEN'S/ASSESSORS' MEETING
Tuesday, April 16, 2019
William Pullen Building Meeting Room
6:30 p.m.

Selectmen Present: Greg Grotton, Lyle Cramer, Jim Justice, John Shepard, and Sarah Drickey

Others Present: Jay Feyler, Jesse Thompson, Ray Montana, and John Gibbons

- 1. Call Selectmen's Meeting to order:** 6:30 p.m.
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3. Public Comment:**

Jesse Thompson stated he requested an RFP to switch billing services for the ambulance. There have been ongoing issues with current billing service. He is considering *Comstar*; a Massachusetts company that will charge 1% less than the current billing company. *Comstar* strictly deals with ambulance billing. He feels it is a better company for less money.

Discussion: Greg asked if there is a contract with the current company. Jesse stated there is, but it can be cancelled at any time. Jim asked if there will be consistent reports. Jesse said they he will be receiving monthly reports from the new company. John asked if there will be an annual contract with *Comstar*. Jesse confirmed that there would be. Jay stated that the references checked out and everyone he spoke with is very happy with them. He added that the contract will be available to be reviewed by the Board before going into effect. Sarah asked about collecting outstanding balances with the current company, TG Higgins. Jesse stated there will be an overlap of time for them to close out open invoices.

- 4. Approve Minutes of Tuesday, April 2, 2019:**

Motion by: Jim Justice

2nd by: Sarah Drickey

5-0

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5. Sign Treasurer's Warrant dated Tuesday, April 16, 2019:

Motion by: John Shepard

2nd by: Jim Justice

5-0

6. Montana Solar Presentation:

Ray Montana from Electric Sunshine was present to discuss his solar energy proposal. He explained that his system would be a long-term investment for the town. The system would need to be purchased upfront and would pay for itself after approximately 9.5 years with free electricity. In other words, it is equivalent to pre-buying electricity. He does not offer PPAs (Power Purchase Agreements), as he believes that adds an extended cost to the purchaser. Ray stated that he is the lowest priced installer compared to larger companies. The life of the product is approximately 25 years or better due to new technology.

Discussion: Jim asked about the cost of repairs. Ray stated he would take care of repairs, although there is a low rate of maintenance and if anything needed to be repaired, it would be replaced with equipment that was within code, as the codes can change over time. Jim voiced his concern about Electric Sunshine going out of business, and if anyone else would be able to maintain the equipment. Ray stated without a doubt; other individuals, as well as other companies are more than capable of maintenance. John stated as it stands, the unit may need to be replaced within 25 to 30 years, should the town plan on forming a reserve account. Ray feels it would not be necessary; much of the equipment can be recycled, and funds can be regenerated for replacement equipment. John asked if gross metering was once again implemented, would it be an issue? Ray stated he does not see gross metering as an issue because of the pushback from opposing parties. Sarah asked about the effects of snow and wind on the equipment. Ray stated weather does not typically affect the equipment. Jim inquired about the possibility of hail damaging the panels. Ray confirmed that this has never happened in Maine, and the equipment is rated for golf ball-sized hail. Greg asked how much area the system would cover. Ray stated it would cover most of the area, stating the town does not need to generate more than what is needed. Greg also asked about yearly maintenance. Ray stated it is not likely, possibly every five years, as there is a maintenance cost of \$1500.00 over the life of the system. Greg questioned shutting off the grid for the safety of firefighters in the event of a structure fire. Ray stated the grid can easily be shut off from the outside of the building.

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7. Discussion and vote to allow the Town Manager to enter into an agreement regarding the repair of the Public Works garage, within the limits of insurance coverage:

Motion by: Jim Justice

2nd by: Lyle Cramer

5-0

8. Sign Knox County Warrant:

Motion by: Lyle Cramer

2nd by: Sarah Drickey

5-0

9. Town Manager's Report:

Jay stated the Public Works garage fire was a week ago yesterday. There is an office trailer which is up and running. All the storage trailers have arrived: 18-wheel trailer (dirty box), 40-foot (clean box) railroad box. There is an existing 20-foot box on the property for salvageable electronic items. There is also a dumpster on the property. Superior Restoration Services began work this morning. Everything not attached to the garage will go into the dirty trailer, items being thrown out. The restoration service will clean the inside floor and sills. They will then begin working outside to clean all the tools which will be transported to the clean trailer. Jay hopes this process will be done by the end of the week. The truck with smoke damage will be detailed. The other trucks that have extensive damage will be cleaned and towed for repair work; engines will be steam cleaned, filters will be stripped, melted lights will be replaced, everything will be inspected, etc. A pickup truck has been rented for two weeks. Terra-star will be worked on first as it had the least heat damage. The John Deere excavator is possibly totaled. A building engineer arrived to cut a piece out of one of the beams to be inspected for structural damage/stability. A pressure test of the cement flooring will be done to see if the plastic piping has melted. If these tests fail, there is a possibility the entire building down may need to be torn down. We are still waiting for the results from the hazardous material report. Maine Coast Construction (who built the building) is working with MMA. There is extensive damage, and it is a major undertaking.

Discussion: Lyle complimented Jay on his outstanding diligence and coordination pertaining to the PW fire and all that he does for the Town of Union. Everyone agreed with Lyle's sentiments.

Jay stated the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting was a great success with a great turn-out. The next meeting is April 29 at 6:30 p.m. to elect officers.

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10. Other Business:

John reminded everyone of the Tri-County Solid Waste meeting: Thursday April 25 in Somerville.

Informational Meeting: Tuesday, April 30.

11. Selectmen's Report:

12. Future Agenda Items:

13. Adjourn:

Motion by: Jim Justice

2nd by: Lyle Cramer

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Meeting adjourned at: 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Patrick
Secretary